Raising prices of medicines by Drug Companies

4611. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Hoechst and M/s. Carews have been frequently raising the prices of the various medicines produced by them causing lot of strain on the common man;

(b) if so, the details thereof, during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that both the companies are not passing the benefits of various concession like reduction in custom duty etc. to the common man and are also violating many other directions/instructions issued by Government regarding payment into DPEA; and

(d) if so ,the details thereof and what action Government propose to take against the above mentioned compnanies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The prices of medicines under price control are fixed/revised by the Government whereas in regard to medicines not under price control, the concerned companies fix/revise their prices themselves with the intimation to the Government in the prescribed forms. If there are abnormal price increases in case of decontolled category, the Government intervenes for the same.

(c) and (d) One such case pertaining to M/s. Hoechst regarding not passing on the benefits of reduction in custom duty, had come to the notice of the Government, few months back. Government intervened and the company reduced the price of medicines giving impact of custom duty reduction.

Regarding liability into DPEA, M/s. Hoechest filed a writ petition in the Bombay High Court. The Bombay High Court framed a time bound schedule for furnishing the liability giving the hearing to the company and passing a final speaking order. The Company has been given a last and final opportunity to submit the requisite data.

Regarding M/s. Carews, it was noticed that the company was overcharging the price of Combiflam Tabs. between the period Nov., 1986 to August, 1989. A tentative liability of Rs. 7.11 crores has been calculated against this company for this period. The company filed writ petitions in the Calcutta High Court on this matter.

BICP's Recommendation on Bulk Drugs

4612. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of scheduled bulk drugs for which BICP is yet to recommended prices under DPCO, 1987;

(b) what are the names of bulk drugs in respect of which BICP have sent their recommendation on fair prices but decision on BICP report is yet to be taken;

(c) since when each of these reports is pending and what are the reasons for this pendency;

(d) what are the names of bulk drugs for which Government have received recommendations for revision of prices from 1st January to 30th June, 1992 and what are the details of price revision in each case; and

(e) what are the names of formulations for which Government announced ceiling prices during 1992 upto 31st July, 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND